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Detroit District

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# News Release

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## New Soo Locks association will make a difference

**DETROIT --** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announces the newly formed Soo Locks Visitor Center Association.

Currently comprised of Sault Ste. Marie community members and leaders, this association is the first of its kind at the Soo Locks, and is open to anyone looking to make a difference at the center. This non-profit association, and its exhibits, will play an integral part in the role of modernizing, enhancing, and upgrading the Soo Locks Visitor Center.

“This is a win/win situation for the Corps, and the entire Sault Ste. Marie community. Our employees are excited about how this highlights the locks and the possibilities it brings with it. We hope this makes a positive impact on tourism in the community, said Lt. Col. Thomas H. Magness, district engineer.

The association will provide materials that are important to the successful education and enjoyment of the general public at the Soo Locks. They will complete this mission by assisting the Corps in its interpretive function regarding education and historical aspects of the maritime activities at the Soo Locks, St. Marys River, and the Great Lakes through programs, exhibits, and interactive materials at the center.

This agreement and association are based on a similar long-standing association the Corps has at its Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center in Duluth, Minn. The key players slated to carry out this mission at the Soo are the association’s current board of directors:

**President:** John Wellington, from the Soo Historical Sites Assoc

**Vice President:** Linda Hoath, PhD, executive director, Sault Convention Visitor Bureau

**Recording Sec.:** Noel Weaver, from the American Merchant Marine Library

**Treasurer:** Sue Schacher, curator, River History Museum

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the association they may send an eMail stating interest through the Detroit District’s website at [www.lre.usace.army.mil](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil).

The Soo Locks Visitor Center at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., is on the grounds of the world famous Soo Locks project managed by the Soo Area Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District civil works program encompasses 93,000 square miles area of the lower Great Lakes basin in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio. The Corps operates and/or maintains 104 navigation structures in the basin. Its mission includes real estate transactions, flood control, regulatory activities, disaster response, and mobilization readiness.